LIBRARY

R. D. 10 DEC 40

BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL.

Members of the Public Health, Housing, and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, 1939-40.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Chairman - Councillor J. B. Graham, J.P.

Deputy Chairman - Councillor C. Chambers.

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman R.H. Carter, J.P.)
Alderman J. Vasey, J.P.

Councillors J. Beattie
T.F. Carter
G. Davison.
E.S. Gardner
F. Harrison
F. Jacques
J. Stevenson
Mrs. E. Emmerson) Serving only on
Mrs. F. Harrison) the Maternity & Child Welfare Committee.

Health Department,
Frederic Street,
Hartlepool.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health, Housing and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report for the year 1939 on the work done in the Health Department. Circular 2067 which amends circular 1961, requires a much abbreviated report as compared to previous years.

Air Raid Precautions work took up a considerable part of my time and actually apart from maintaining Clinics and other essential work associated with the Health Department, little progress can be noted.

I desire to draw your attention to the vital statistics with particular reference to the declining Birth Rate, the fall in population and the increase in the Death Rate. This to a certain extent can be explained by families leaving the Town in search of work elsewhere and generally speaking the increase in the death rate is a relative one since there is no marked increase in the actual numbers of deaths from any definite disease.

Application was made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, to the Ministry of Health for an order asking that this Council should continue to be the Food and Drugs Authority for the Borough under the above act. A representative of the Ministry visited the town with regard to this application when evidence was given supporting the claim of the Council, but unfortunately the Ministry refused the Council's application and as from the 1st October, Durham County Council became the Food and Drugs Authority for the purposes of the act. I consider this a retrogate step and it does not lead to efficiency in control and supervision of foodstuffs in the town as would be the case if one department was solely responsible for the administration of all acts and circulars relating to foodstuffs.

In June, by mutual arrangement, advantage was taken of a Health Exhibition in the neighboroughing borough of West Hartlepool, organised by the Central Council for Health Education, for visits to the

exhibition by school children in this town over the age of 11 years. Through the Central Council, arrangements were also made for a display of suitable films at a local Cinema. Exhibition and film displays were attended by about 950 children.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

W.V. Macfarlane.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Medical Officer, Infant Welfare Centre:

George B. Murray, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 31/3/39)
W. V. Macfarlane, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Commenced 1/5/39)

Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector and Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act :

G. A. Ward, M.S.I.A.

Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board
Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Pupil Sanitary Inspectors:

W.L. Mercer. Till Sept. 1939.
Wm. Grieve.

Public Analyst (part time, till 1/10/39)
Cyril J. H. Stock, B.Sc., F.I.C.

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

Miss M.K. Brennan, S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (R.S.I.)
Miss F. Mitchell, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Miss M.A. Fields, S.R.N. S.C.M., H.V. Cert (R.S.I.) (Resigned 13/3/39)
Miss M.J. Peat (Commenced 3/4/39)

Clerks : Miss K. Cross.
Miss I. Blenkin (Commenced 27/3/39)

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Area (Acres)	1,841
Population (Census 1939)	15,439
" (estimated mid-year 1939) ...	17,870
Number of inhabitated houses (end of 1939)	4,412
Rateable Value	£ 68,376
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£ 259.11s.2d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

		Males	Females	Total
1. Live Births	- Legitimate ...	171	152	323
	Illegitimate ...	7	2	9
		178	154	332

Birth Rate - 18.5

	Males	Females	Total
2. Still Births - Legitimate ...	6	4	10
Illegitimate ...	1	-	1
	7	4	11

Rate per 1,000 total births - 33.1

3. Deaths	145	107	252

Crude Death Rate - 14.5
Adjusted " " - 16.6

4. Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :

from Sepsis ... 0
" other causes. 1

Rate per 1,000 total births - 3.

5. Number of deaths of infants under 1 year - 25

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births - 75.

6. Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... -
" " Whooping cough ... ... -
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 4
" " Influenza ... ... -
" " Diphtheria 1
" " Cancer 35

Causes of Death during the year 1939.

Causes of Death	Males	Females
All Causes.	145	107
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	1
Measles	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	1
Influenza	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	16	7
Other Tuberculous Disease	1	4
Syphilis	2	-
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	3	-
Cancer, malignant disease	18	17
Diabetes	-	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	6	5
Heart Disease	40	25
Aneurysm	1	-
Other Circulatory Diseases	8	2
Bronchitis	2	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	12	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-
Peptic Ulcer	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	4
" (over 2 years)	2	-
Appendicitis	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	-
Other Diseases of Liver etc.	-	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	-
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	1

	Males	Females
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
Other Puerperal Causes	-	1.
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth Malformations, etc.	4	4
Senility	2	3
Suicide	1	1
Other Violence	9	2
Other Defined Diseases	12	11
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	-

General Provision of the Health Services in the Borough.

There are no alterations from the previous year with reference to Ambulance Service, Nursing in the Home, Arrangements with Hospitals, Clinics and Treatment Centres.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

As in previous years Maternity cases are admitted to Grantully Maternity Home in West Hartlepool or Howbeck Hospital which comes under the jurisdiction of West Hartlepool Public Assistance Committee. Puerperal Pyrexia cases are admitted to Howbeck Hospital, also West Hartlepool Isolation Hospital.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC - Arrangements for the above are the same as for previous years.

During the year 109 nursing mothers received extra nourishment where financial circumstances were bad.

179 women attended during the year for ante-natal examination and 6 for post-natal examination. I wish to draw the Committee's attention to the latter figure as it is not only desirable, but essential that women should attend for post-natal as well as for ante-natal examinations and it is to be hoped that in the current year steps will be taken to rectify the obvious weekness in this scheme.

It was unfortunate that the National Birthday Trust Fund terminated the supplies of dried milk and Marmite on 10th August, 1939. Up to that period 79 mothers availed themselves of the provision of this free food. The number of Neo-natal deaths was 1.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. - Mr. C.J.H. Stock, Analyst to the Borough submitted the following report on the water supply for the Borough of Hartlepool:-

This sample affords no evidence of pollution by sewage or other foul drainage, and it is of normal composition for the supply from which it is drawn. The results of the bacteriological examination are entirely satisfactory and no objection could be raised to the use of the supply, as represented by the sample, for human consumption.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

1. Prior to the outbreak of war, one Ministry of Health enquiry was held in respect of 14 areas comprising 210 dwelling houses and 8 other buildings. One area was deferred at the enquiry with a view to the possibility of the houses being reconditioned and made into self-contained through houses, but owing to the outbreak of hostilities formal approval of the Minister of these orders has not yet been received.

It is to be regretted that at present no action has been taken with regard to the re-housing of overcrowded families. The problem

is an acute one and will require urgent attention after the war.

During the year 231 families were re-housed by the Council removal disinfection being carried out as detailed in previous reports.

238 new houses were erected by private enterprises during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Routine inspections were made of farms and dairies within the district. None of the farms are producing designated milks.

Regular inspections of slaughter houses and butchers shops were made and as far as possible inspections were made of all animals slaughtered.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE BOROUGH.

Disease.	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	No. of deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Diphtheria	9	8	1
Scarlet Fever	11	7	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	1	-	-
Pneumonia	15	1	1
Erysipelas	4	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-
Infantile Paralysis	-	-	-

Generally speaking the statistics are satisfactory and give no cause for comment.

Immunisation against Diphtheria - The number of children Immunised against Diphtheria in the Borough is now 3278. 117 children were immunised during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods	New Cases				Total Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 "	-	2	4	2	-	-	1	-
15-25 "	3	4	-	-	1	2	-	-
25-35 "	2	4	1	1	-	1	-	1
35-45 "	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
45-55 "	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
55-65 "	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	16	11	7	4	7	4	1	2

Again I have to record the gradual, but definite increase in the incidence of Tuberculosis in the town, but this would appear to be counter-balanced by the proportionate decrease in the number of deaths from Tuberculosis. Allowing for 8 cases which were subsequently de-notified, 30 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year as compared with 27 in 1938 while the number of deaths was 14 as compared with 23 in the previous year.

As before, Durham County Council make arrangements for Sanatorium treatment and also the Aftercare Committee Associated with the County likewise supply clothing and extra nourishment. 29 cases received Institutional treatment.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Statistics reveal a marked increase 75 as compared with 1938 (55.2). This increase again is a relative one (fall in Birth Rate) since the actual numbers of deaths is 25 as compared with 20 in the previous year.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

	1938	1939
Total attendances during the year.	5299	4683
By children under 1 year.	3172	3279
By children between 1 and 5 years.	2093	1404
Average attendances per session.	106	104
Total number of children who made first attendances	529	558
Children under 1 year.	322	369
Children between 1 and 5 years.	207	189

It is to be noted that the number of sessions were reduced to 45 on account of the outbreak of war which interfered temporarily with the smooth working of the Clinics.

I am convinced that the marked reduction in attendances of children between the ages of 1 and 5 years was due to mothers having to bring those children a considerable distance from the new Housing Estate at West View to the Clinic. This defect will certainly be remedied in 1940.

With reference to the defects found in Infants attending the Clinic it is gratifying to know that there was a considerable reduction in the incidence of errors in Feeding.

Statistics are much the same for 1939 as for the previous year with particular reference to - (a) defects found in infants attending the Clinic, and (b) pre-school children who attended the School Clinic sessions for diagnosis and treatment.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health and Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration a brief report of the work carried out in the Sanitary Section of the Department.

As mentioned previously, Housing took up a large proportion of time, militating against the efficient Sanitary Inspection of the district in other branches of the work.

After the cessation of hostilities a serious consideration will undoubtedly have to be given to the question of Overcrowding and Housing in the town, a situation which will be aggravated by the fact that remedial measures are suspended for the duration of the war.

Legal proceedings were instituted against a vendor of sausages containing undeclared preservative.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G.A. Ward.

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

During the period under review a total of 641 inspections and 871 re-inspections were made regarding various complaints and nuisances.

Notices.

Informal notices served	115
Informal notices complied with	76
Second notices served	51
Statutory notices served	18
Statutory notices complied with	16
Nuisances complied with without service of notice	23
Warning letters sent	9

In two cases repairs were carried out on default of the owners by the Council, the cost of the repairs being recovered in Court.

Miscellaneous.

Inspection of Factories, Common Lodging Houses and Offensive Trades were carried out as routine. Nothing occurred on these lines to call for comment.

The number of registered premises is as indicated in last years' Report.

Meat and other Foods.

The position with regard to slaughter houses remains as previously indicated. Regular inspection of slaughter houses and Butchers' shops were made and as far as possible all animals killed in the town were inspected.

The total number of meat and food inspections carried out during the year was 254 and 767 carcases were examined.

The total weight of foodstuffs destroyed as unfit for food was 1 ton 9 cwts. 3 qrs. 16 lbs., which included 5 cwt. of fish.

No seizure of unsound food was necessary.

Milk.

One wholesale and one retail purveyor of milk was registered under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1923 and 1936.

Samples for Bacteriological Examinations were carried out and certain samples taken from school milk were found to be not satisfactory and were referred to the districts concerned for remedial action,

Routine inspections of dairies and cow-sheds was maintained.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

During the period of 1939, prior to losing our powers to the County Council under the Consolidating Act, 67 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis and in three instances only was an adverse report received giving a percentage of adulteration of 4.47. These three samples related to one case in which proceedings were instituted against the vendor of sausages containing an undeclared preservative. The case was dismissed on payment of costs.